

**THINK ABOUT IT:**

1. The twelve persons who followed Christ are described in the New Testament as the Twelve:
  - A. Twins
  - B. Disciples
  - C. Gospels
2. When we say, “Indeed He is Risen!” the word “indeed” means:
  - A. Say it again.
  - B. See it with your own eyes.
  - C. It is true.
3. The word that describes being sure in our hearts about what we believe:
  - A. Eyewitness
  - B. Faith
  - C. Proof
4. Christ said that people who haven’t seen but believe in the Resurrection are:
  - A. Blessed
  - B. Educated
  - C. Worried
5. How many Sundays during the year do Orthodox persons celebrate Christ’s Resurrection?
  - A. One Sunday -- only on Pascha
  - B. Two Sundays -- Pascha and Saint Thomas Sunday
  - C. Every Sunday
6. When is it a good day to say, “Christ is Risen!”?
  - A. Only on Pascha
  - B. Only on Sundays
  - C. Every day

## Saint Thomas Sunday

“Christ is risen! Indeed He is risen!”



**“The Belief of Thomas.”**

When St. Thomas touched the side of Christ, he believed that Christ is indeed (truly) risen and that Jesus Christ is our Lord and God.

## **SAINT THOMAS SUNDAY -- A LESSON ABOUT FAITH**

**Saint Thomas was one of the twelve Disciples** who followed Christ, listened to what He said and saw the miracles He did.

But Thomas had a hard time believing it when the other Disciples told him that Jesus had risen from the tomb.

Thomas didn't understand that it could really have been Jesus who had come to the Disciples in a closed room. He wasn't in the room to see it, so he doubted that it could be true.

The word "**doubt**" means that someone isn't sure about something or isn't able to believe something.

Thomas was a person who wanted proof when he was told about something he did not see with his own eyes.

Thomas HAD SEEN Jesus dead on the cross and then buried in a tomb, but he DID NOT SEE His resurrection.

Even when the Risen Christ came a second time to the room and Thomas was there too, **he wasn't sure** whether to believe his own eyes that the person he saw was really the same Jesus whom he had known before.

Even though Jesus had told **parables about resurrection and eternal life**, some persons did not understand it.

It didn't make sense to Thomas that Jesus could be standing alive again in front of him.

But when Christ let Thomas touch the nail prints and the wound in His side, Thomas believed that it really was Jesus and that He had risen from death to life.

All life comes from God, so Thomas then was very sure in his heart that **Jesus Christ is our Lord and our God**.

When Jesus said, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed," He was talking about faith.

**Faith** is when we don't have to see something or figure it out or prove it but **we know in our hearts** that it is true.

Christ will bless us with Eternal Life in Heaven because we have faith in Him and believe in the Resurrection.

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**ANTIPASCHA:** St. Thomas Sunday is also known as "Antipascha." The "anti" part of this word does not mean "against" Pascha (Easter). It means "**in place of**" Pascha.

Just as we celebrate Christ's Resurrection on Pascha Sunday (Easter), **the Orthodox Church dedicates every Sunday, not only the Sunday of Pascha, to Christ's Resurrection.**

But even more than only on Sunday, we Orthodox believers know that **we can say on any day and every day:**

**"Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!"**